On the supply of text books—you have heard me touch upon that matter twice before you spoke. So you realise that that matter will engage the serious attention of the educational authorities in the State.

57. Eductional reforms.

MR. K. M. PHILIPOSE (*Member, Nominated*) said that compared with other countries, Travancore was having a system of education which was to a large extent out of date. Mysore, Baroda and other Indian States were making drastic changes in their educational policy; but Travancore was holding fast to her old obsolete system. To mention only two of the modern developments in educational policy, every civilised country was giving importance to the study of the vernacular and to the giving of practical training in schools. Both these features were conspicuous by their absence in the schools in Travancore.

There was an old circular laying down that in English schools all subjects except the English language should be taught in Malayalam, but that circular remained a dead letter to this day. In future, classes i to iv might be treated as primary classes, while in classes v to vii Malayalam might be given the foremost place and English might be taught only as a second language. In this view English and vernacular schools need not be separately maintained as at present. The appointments of the Inspector of English Schools and the Assistant Inspectors of English Schools could then be abolished. The Director of Public Instruction could himself inspect the High Schools. As regards the remaining schools, there should be a Chief Inspector with a few Assistants divided into two grades. The Assistant Inspectors in charge of primary schools should be given a pay of Rs. 50-75 and those in charge of middle schools should be given a pay of Rs. 75-150. There should be only three officers in the latter grade. The Assistant Inspectors of primary schools should each have under him not less than one hundred and fifty schools.

In order to promote the vernacular, another step should also be taken. All official correspondence except that with the Huzur should be required to be carried on in Malayalam. This rule should be rigorously enforced.

The expenditure on the Education Department had of late reached prodigious proportions. It was high time to draw a line in this matter. The only way to do this was to hand over all Sirkar primary schools to private agencies. In case a sufficient number of managers could not be secured, taluk boards should be appointed in each taluk and pakuthi boards in each pakuthi, and the schools should be transferred to their control.

Government might consider the following measures for reducing the outlay on primary schools:—

(1) All Government primary schools should be transferred to private management, wherever efficient and trustworthy persons were

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coming forward to take up the management: the teachers in such schools should be taken over to other Government schools when vacancies occurred there.

(2) None of the seven hundred permanent vacancies which, it was reported, were available in the vernacular schools at present should be filled up; Government schools to this extent should instead be handed over to private agencies, and the same thing should be done when vacancies occurred in future.

Another reform that was urgently called for was the encouragement of private schools. The following concessions should therefore be granted to private schools:—

1. Untrained teachers in classes i and ii should be given a pay of Rs. 10 per mensem, those in class iii Rs. 11 per mensem, and those in class iv Rs. 13 per mensem. Trained teachers in these classes should be given Rs. 12, Rs. 13 and Rs. 15 respectively per mensem.

2. Experienced teachers in private schools should be drafted to vacancies occurring in Government schools; at least 75 per cent. of the vacancies should be filled up in this manner.

3. The rules regarding the size and dimensions of school buildings should not be rigorously enforced.

4. The rule requiring managers of private schools to have their grants renewed once in three years should be repealed.

5. No school should be established within a minimum distance of one mile from another school.

6. The establishment of communal and denominational schools should be discouraged.

7. The rule regarding suspension of grants in case the attendance fell below 75 per cent. should be repealed.

8. The grant awarded for a teacher's salary should be given to him as stipend while he was undergoing training.

Co-education of boys and girls was an outstanding feature of our schools, even in regard to the higher classes. But in some places primary schools were being conducted for boys and girls separately. These institutions had most of them their origin in mere rivalry and jealousy. Such schools should be amalgamated.

The purely literary form of education that was now being imparted in our schools should be replaced by a good practical kind of education. A few Assistant Inspectors should be deputed to well-known educational centres in England or America to learn the systems there. At all events a beginning should be made at once in the stupendous task of reforming the educational system of the country.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Philipose, as you have been so kind as to give me a printed copy of what you said here, I shall ask the Director of Public Instruction to consider your suggestions. But some of them are in such general terms and some of them foreshadow such heavy expenditure that I have grave doubts whether it will be possible to accept them all. However, they will be considered in due course.

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